

# HYPERELLIPTIC CURVES OVER $\mathbb{F}_2$ OF EVERY 2-RANK WITHOUT EXTRA AUTOMORPHISMS

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**ABSTRACT.** We prove that for any pair of integers  $0 \leq r \leq g$  such that  $g \geq 3$  or  $r > 0$ , there exists a (hyper)elliptic curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of genus  $g$  and 2-rank  $r$  whose automorphism group consists of only identity and the (hyper)elliptic involution. As an application, we prove the existence of principally polarized abelian varieties  $(A, \lambda)$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of dimension  $g$  and 2-rank  $r$  such that  $\text{Aut}(A, \lambda) = \{\pm 1\}$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper curves are smooth, projective, and geometrically integral algebraic varieties of dimension one defined over fields. Let  $k$  be a field and  $\bar{k}$  its algebraic closure. If  $C$  is a curve over  $k$ , let  $\text{Aut } C$  denote the group of automorphisms of  $C$  defined over  $\bar{k}$ . Let  $J(C)$  denote the Jacobian of  $C$ . Let  $\text{End } J(C)$  denote the endomorphism ring of  $J(C)$  over  $\bar{k}$ . Let  $\mathbb{F}_p$  be a finite field of  $p$  elements for some prime  $p$ . Let  $\bar{\mathbb{F}}_p$  be its algebraic closure.

A supersingular curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  is a curve whose Jacobian is isogenous over  $\bar{\mathbb{F}}_p$  to a product of supersingular elliptic curves. Hence a supersingular curve  $C$  is a cover of these supersingular elliptic curves. It has  $p$ -rank 0 but the converse is not true for  $g \geq 3$ . Supersingular curves are intimately connected to curves with large automorphism groups. For instance, in the seminal paper [1], the authors constructed supersingular curves over finite field of characteristic 2 by taking quotients of some families of (2-rank 0) curves over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  with large automorphism groups. It is well-known that curves over fields of positive characteristic achieving maximal automorphism groups are all supersingular curves [13]. Is it a myth or truth that a curve over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of lower  $p$ -rank has larger automorphism groups in general?

In the moduli space of curves, the subset corresponding to the curves with trivial automorphism group is open (see [9, Introduction] or [2, Remark 10.6.24]). In a recent paper this fact was proved constructively [9] (see also [10][11]). It is desirable to understand how this subset stratifies by the  $p$ -rank of the curves.

**Question 1.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. Given integers  $g \geq 3$  and  $0 \leq r \leq g$ , is there a curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of genus  $g$  and  $p$ -rank  $r$  such that  $\text{Aut } C = \{1\}$ ?*

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There is not any constructive way to obtain curves over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of prescribed genus and  $p$ -rank, so we do not know the answer to this question.

On the other hand, for every prime  $p$  and positive integer  $g$ , Poonen [10] has constructed (hyper)elliptic curves  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of genus  $g$  with  $\text{Aut } C = \{1, \iota\}$ , where  $\iota$  is the unique (hyper)elliptic involution of  $C$ . Automorphisms other than these two are referred as *extra* automorphisms.

If  $g = 1$ , it is well-known that for every prime  $p$  a supersingular elliptic curve (i.e., with zero  $p$ -rank) over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  has extra automorphisms, while there exist ordinary elliptic curves (i.e., with non-zero  $p$ -rank) over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  with  $\text{Aut } C = \{1, \iota\}$ . (See [12, Chapter III].)

Every curve over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of genus 2 and 2-rank 0 can be written in the form  $y^2 + y = x(x^4 + a_1x^2 + a_0x)$  for  $a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2$ , hence has extra automorphisms. It is easy to check this fact by hand. In fact, every curve of the form  $y^2 + y = x(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^{2^i})$  for some integer  $n$  and  $a_i \in \mathbb{F}_2$  has extra automorphisms (see [1]).

**Question 2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. Given integers  $g \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq r \leq g$ , is there a (hyper)elliptic curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of genus  $g$  and  $p$ -rank  $r$  without extra automorphism?*

The present paper gives a complete answer to this question for the case  $p = 2$ . We hope this provides evidence for more general theorem or conjecture in the future.

**Theorem 3.** *For any integers  $0 \leq r \leq g$  such that  $g \geq 3$  or  $r > 0$ , there exists a (hyper)elliptic curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of genus  $g$  and 2-rank  $r$  such that  $\text{Aut}(C) = \{1, \iota\}$  where  $\iota$  is the unique (hyper)elliptic involution of  $C$ .*

The proof of the theorem, divided in two parts, is presented in the next two sections. This theorem has the following application. For an abelian variety  $A$  with polarization  $\lambda$  defined over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  let  $\text{Aut}(A, \lambda)$  denote the group of automorphisms of  $A$  over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}_2}$  respecting the polarization. The corollary below follows immediately from the theorem by applying the Torelli's theorem [6, Theorem 12.1]. Detailed discussion upon related results can be found in the Introduction of [10].

**Corollary 4.** *For any integers  $0 \leq r \leq g$  such that  $g \geq 3$  or  $r > 0$ , there exists a  $g$ -dimensional principally polarized abelian variety  $(A, \lambda)$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of 2-rank  $r$  such that  $\text{Aut}(A, \lambda) = \{\pm 1\}$ .*

Finally we remark that these above two questions will be resolved if we know what algebras can become  $\text{End } J(C)$  for curves  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of prescribed genus (see [8, Question (8.6)]) and  $p$ -rank. By [7] (see also [14]), one knows that for every  $g \geq 1$  there exists a hyperelliptic curve  $C$  of any genus  $g \geq 1$  with  $\text{End } J(C) = \mathbb{Z}$ . However, this does not hold for curves over finite fields, in which case we have  $\text{End } J(C)$  strictly contains  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

## 2. CONSTRUCTION FOR $r > 0$

Suppose  $g \geq 2$  and  $r \leq g$  are two positive integers. Let  $q(x)$  be a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $< 2g + 1 - r$  (resp.  $= 2g + 1 - r$ ) with  $r$  (resp.  $r + 1$ ) distinct roots and, let  $f(x)$  be a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $2g + 1 - r$  (resp.  $\leq 2g + 1 - r$ ), such that  $f(x)$  and  $q(x)$  has no common roots. Let  $C$  be the hyperelliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  defined by the affine equation

$$(1) \quad C : y^2 + y = \frac{f(x)}{q(x)}.$$

Then the curve  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is of genus  $g$  by the Riemann-Hurwitz formula and of 2-rank  $r$  by the Deuring-Shafarevich formula in (2), which we shall explain immediately (see details in [4] or [5]). Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $p$ . Let  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$  be a finite Galois covering of curves over  $k$  whose Galois group  $G$  is a  $p$ -group. Let  $r_X$  and  $r_Y$  denote the  $p$ -ranks of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Let  $Q_1, \dots, Q_n$  be the set of ramification points on  $Y$  with respect to  $\pi$ . For each point  $Q_i$  let  $p^{e_i}$  (here  $e_i \geq 1$ ) be its ramification index. Then

$$(2) \quad r_X - 1 = \#G \cdot (r_Y - 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - p^{-e_i})).$$

Let  $D$  be the ramification divisor of the canonical double cover  $C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ . Write  $q := \prod_{i=1}^r (x - \alpha_i)^{b_i}$  (resp.  $q := \prod_{i=1}^{r+1} (x - \alpha_i)^{b_i}$ ) for distinct  $\alpha_i \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$  and  $b_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ . The set  $\mathcal{S}$  of ramification points consists of those points  $P_{\alpha_i}$  corresponding to the zeroes of  $q$  and possibly the point  $P_\infty$  at infinity. We have

$$(3) \quad D = \begin{cases} (2g + 2 - \deg(q) - r)P_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^r (b_i + 1)P_{\alpha_i} & \text{and respectively} \\ \sum_{i=1}^{r+1} (b_i + 1)P_{\alpha_i} \end{cases}$$

Every automorphism of  $C$  gives rise to an automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  under the canonical double cover  $C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ . To construct curves  $C$  without extra automorphisms, it suffices to find monic polynomials  $f$  and  $q$  in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  such that every automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  is the identity map on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

Our construction below follows the following idea: for every pair of integers  $0 < r \leq g$ , we shall construct polynomials  $q$  such that  $q$  has  $r$  (or  $r + 1$  resp.) distinct roots and of degree  $< 2g + 1 - r$  (or  $2g + 1 - r$ , resp.) in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$ . We always let  $f$  be any polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $2g + 1 - r$  (or  $\leq 2g + 1 - r$ , resp.) which has no common roots with  $q$ . We remark that we shall use the construction that  $q$  has  $r$  distinct roots except in *Case 5* and *Case 6*.

In the construction below we use the notation  $f_n$  for a  $n$ -th degree irreducible polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$ . It is a basic fact in algebra that  $f_n$  exists for every positive integer  $n$  (see [3, Chapter V]). For example,  $f_2 = x^2 + x + 1$  and  $f_3 = x^3 + x^2 + 1$  or  $x^3 + x + 1$ . For any  $f_3$  of our choice, we denote by  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$  its roots in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$  in an order such that  $\beta_1^2 = \beta_2$ .

*Case 1.* Suppose  $r \geq 8$ :

Let  $q = f_3 f_{r-3}$  if  $3 \nmid r$  and  $q = x f_3 f_{r-4}$  otherwise.

Let  $\sigma$  be an automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  which acts as a 3-cycle on the three roots of  $f_3$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ . Since 3 points determines an automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$ ,  $\sigma$  is defined over the field  $k$  generated by roots of  $f_3$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . Hence,  $\sigma(P_\infty)$  corresponds to a point in  $k$ .

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  denote the composition of all finite extensions of  $\mathbb{F}_2$  of degrees coprime to 3. There are exactly  $r - 2$  distinct  $\mathbb{F}$ -rational points in the set of ramification points  $\mathcal{S}$ . Suppose  $\lambda$  is a non-trivial automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$ . Then  $\lambda$  must map at least  $(r - 2) - 3 \geq 3$  of these  $\mathbb{F}$ -rational points to other  $\mathbb{F}$ -rational points of  $\mathcal{S}$ . But  $\lambda$  is determined by its values at 3 points, so  $\lambda$  must be defined over  $\mathbb{F}$ . In particular,  $\lambda$  preserves the set of 3 non- $\mathbb{F}$ -rational points of  $\mathcal{S}$ , the roots of  $f_3$ . If  $\lambda$  fixes any one of them, as they are Galois conjugates over  $\mathbb{F}$ , then  $\lambda$  would fix them all, hence  $\lambda$  would be trivial. So  $\lambda$  acts as a 3-cycle, and after replacing  $\lambda$  by  $\lambda^{-1}$  if necessary, we may assume  $\lambda = \sigma$ . Since  $\lambda$  permutes the roots of  $f_3$ , it fixes its coefficients, hence  $\lambda$  fixes 0 and 1. So  $\lambda(P_\infty) \neq P_\infty$  and  $\lambda(P_\infty) \neq P_1$ . But

$D$  is preserved, so  $\lambda$  maps  $P_\infty$  to a root of  $f_{r-3}$  (or  $f_{r-4}$ ), which lies in  $\mathbb{F}$  and does not lie in  $k$ . This contradicts our assumption above about  $\sigma$ .

*Case 2.* Suppose  $r = 1$  and  $g \geq 2$ , or  $r = 2$  and  $g \geq 4$ :

For  $r = 1$  and  $g \geq 2$ , let  $q = x$ .

Then the ramification divisor is  $D = 2gP_\infty + 2P_0$ . Since  $g \geq 2$  every automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  fixes  $\infty$  and  $0$ , hence it is of the form  $x \mapsto cx$  for some non-zero  $c \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ . A simple computation shows that  $c = 1$ . This resembles Case I in Section 2 of [10].

For  $r = 2$  and  $g \geq 4$ , let  $q = x^2(x+1)$ .

Then  $D = (2g-3)P_\infty + 3P_0 + 2P_1$ . Every automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  has three points  $\infty, 0$  and  $1$  all fixed hence is identity.

*Case 3.* Suppose  $r = 3$  and  $g \geq 4$ :

Let  $q = f_3$ .

Then  $D = (2g-4)P_\infty + 2(P_{\beta_1} + P_{\beta_2} + P_{\beta_3})$ . Let  $\lambda$  be a non-trivial automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  that preserves  $D$ . By assumption  $2g-4 > 2$ , so  $\lambda$  fixes  $P_\infty$  and  $\lambda$  permutes the roots of  $f_3$ . Thus  $\lambda$  fixes  $0$  and  $1$ . But then it fixes all three points  $0, 1$  and  $\infty$ , it must be identity. This leads to a contradiction.

These following three cases follow the same scheme, so we shall elaborate on Case 4 and only sketch the rest two cases.

*Case 4.* Suppose  $r = 4$  and  $g \geq 5$ , or  $r \geq 4$  and  $g \geq r+3$ :

For  $r = 4$  and  $g \geq 5$ , let  $q = x^2 f_3$ .

Then the ramification divisor is  $D = (2g-7)P_\infty + 3P_0 + 2(P_{\beta_1} + P_{\beta_2} + P_{\beta_3})$ . Let  $\lambda$  be a non-trivial automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  which preserves  $D$ , then  $\lambda$  permutes the roots of  $f_3$  hence it fixes  $0$  and  $1$ . If fixes  $P_\infty$  and  $P_0$  then it is identity. If  $\lambda$  swaps  $P_\infty$  and  $P_0$ , and it is of the form  $\lambda(\alpha) = c/\alpha$  for some non-zero  $c \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ . It can be checked quickly that this map can not preserve the roots of  $f_3$ .

For  $r \geq 4$  and  $g \geq r+3$ , let  $q = x^3(x+1)^2 f_{r-2}$ .

Then  $D = (2g-2r-1)P_\infty + 4P_0 + 3P_1 + 2\sum_{(f_{r-2})_0} P$ . Since  $2g-2r-1 \geq 5$  and  $r-2 \geq 2$ , every automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  has three points  $\infty, 0$  and  $1$  all fixed hence is identity.

*Case 5.* Suppose  $r = 5$  and  $g \geq 5$ :

Let  $q = f_3(x+1)^{2g-9}(x^2+x+1)$ . Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  be roots of  $x^2+x+1$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ .

Then the ramification divisor is

$$D = 2(P_{\beta_1} + P_{\beta_2} + P_{\beta_3}) + (2g-8)P_1 + 2(P_{\alpha_1} + P_{\alpha_2}).$$

Label the roots of  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, 1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2$  by  $1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ , respectively, such that the absolute Frobenius acts on  $\mathcal{S}$  as the permutation  $\sigma = (123)(56)$ . Let  $H$  be the subgroup of the automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$ , which we may view as a faithful subgroup of  $S_6$ , since automorphisms are determined already by 3 values. Any automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  which fixes  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  has to fix  $1$  so  $\beta_3$  can not be mapped to  $1$ . Therefore,  $(12)(34) \notin H$ . The group theoretical lemma below, due to Poonen (see [10, Lemma 3]), indicates that  $H$  is trivial.

**Lemma 5.** *Suppose  $H$  is a subgroup of  $S_6$  such that*

- (1) *Each non-trivial element of  $H$  has at most 2 fixed points;*

- (2)  $\sigma H \sigma^{-1} \subset H$  for every  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2/\mathbb{F}_2)$ ;
- (3) The permutation (12)(34) is not in  $H$ ,

Then  $H = \{1\}$ .

*Case 6.* Suppose  $r = 6$  and  $g \geq 7$ :

Let  $q = f_3(x+1)(x^2+x+1)x^{2g-11}$ .

Then the ramification divisor is  $D = 2(P_{\beta_1} + P_{\beta_2} + P_{\beta_3}) + 2P_1 + 2(P_{\alpha_1} + P_{\alpha_2}) + (2g-10)P_0$ . Note that every automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$  fixes  $P_0$ . Then we apply the same argument as in *Case 5*.

*Case 7.* Suppose  $r = 7$  and  $g \geq 8$ :

Let  $q = f_3(x+1)(x^2+x+1)x^2$ .

Then the ramification divisor is

$$D = 2(P_{\beta_1} + P_{\beta_2} + P_{\beta_3}) + 2P_1 + 2(P_{\alpha_1} + P_{\alpha_2}) + 3P_0 + (2g-13)P_\infty.$$

Let  $\lambda$  be a non-trivial automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  preserving  $D$ . If  $\lambda$  fixes  $P_0$  and  $P_\infty$  then we use the same argument as in *Case 5*. This is the case when  $g \geq 9$ . It remains to prove the case  $g = 8$  and  $\lambda$  swaps  $P_0$  and  $P_\infty$ . Then  $\lambda(\alpha) = c/\alpha$  for some non-zero  $c \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ . If  $\lambda$  fixes  $P_1$  then it is defined over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  hence it permutes the roots of  $f_3$  and fixes  $P_0$ , contradiction. If  $\lambda$  swaps  $P_1$  with one root of  $f_3$ , then it preserves the roots of  $f_3$  also. If  $\lambda$  swaps  $P_1$  with a root of  $f_2$  then it permutes the roots of  $f_2$ . So it has to fix  $P_1$ , which is absurd.

*Case 8.* Remaining cases:

For  $g = r = 4, 6$ , let  $C : y^2 + y = x + \frac{1}{x(x^{r-1}+1)}$ .

For  $g = r = 3, 5, 7$ , let  $C : y^2 + y = x + \frac{1}{x^r+1}$ .

For  $g = 2, 3$  and  $r = 2$ , let  $C : y^2 + y = x + \frac{1}{x^2+x+1}$  and  $C : y^2 + y = x^3 + \frac{1}{x^2+x+1}$ , respectively.

It is an elementary computation to show that these curves have no extra automorphisms.

### 3. CONSTRUCTION FOR $r = 0$

We still assume  $g \geq 2$ . In this section let  $C$  be a hyperelliptic curve defined by the affine equation

$$(4) \quad C : y^2 + y = f(x)$$

where  $f(x)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $2g+1$ . This is the same as letting  $q = 1$  in (1). So  $C$  is of genus  $g$  and 2-rank 0. We remark that every curve in (4) is isomorphic to a curve with only odd-degree terms in  $f(x)$  because the base field is  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

Any automorphism of  $C$  is of the form  $x \mapsto ax + b$  and  $y \mapsto cy + h(x)$  for some  $a, b, c \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$  and some polynomial  $h(x)$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2[x]$  of  $\deg(h) \leq g$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be the set of polynomials  $p(x)^2 + p(x)$  for all polynomial  $p(x)$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2[x]$  of degree  $\leq g$ . It is easy to show that it is a  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_2$ -vector space of dimension  $g+1$ . It follows that  $c = a^{2g+1} = 1$  and  $f(ax+b) + f(x) = h(x)^2 + h(x)$ . That is

$$(5) \quad a^{2g+1} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad f(ax+b) + f(x) \in \mathcal{H}.$$

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $g = 4$  or  $g \geq 7$ . Let  $p(x)$  be a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $\leq 2g-6$ . The hyperelliptic curve  $C$  defined by the affine equation*

$$C : y^2 + y = f(x) := x^{2g+1} + x^{2g-1} + x^{2g-3} + p(x)$$

*has  $\text{Aut } C = \{1, \iota\}$  if and only if either  $g \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , or  $g \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  and*

- (i)  $g-2$  is a 2-power and  $p(x+1) + p(x) \notin \mathcal{H}$ ;
- (ii)  $g-2$  is not a 2-power and

$$p(x+1) + p(x) \notin \mathcal{H} + (x^4 + x^2 + 1)((x+1)^{2g-3} + x^{2g-3}) \neq \mathcal{H}.$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $x \mapsto ax + b$  gives rise to a non-extra automorphism  $\lambda$  of  $C$ .

First we suppose  $g \geq 7$ . If  $b = 0$  then (5) implies that  $a = 1$  and so  $\lambda$  is not extra. Otherwise, since  $\deg(f(ax+b) + f(x)) = 2g$ , all odd-degree terms in  $f(ax+b) + f(x)$  of degree  $> g$  vanish. Because  $2g-5 > g$  by our assumption, the coefficients of  $x^{2g-1}$ ,  $x^{2g-3}$  and  $x^{2g-5}$  are zero. That is,

$$(6) \quad \binom{2g+1}{2} b^2 + 1 + a^2 = 0$$

$$(7) \quad \binom{2g+1}{4} b^4 + \binom{2g-1}{2} b^2 + 1 + a^4 = 0$$

$$(8) \quad \binom{2g+1}{6} b^4 + \binom{2g-1}{4} b^2 + \binom{2g-3}{2} = 0$$

Simplifying, we get respectively

$$(9) \quad gb^2 + 1 + a^2 = 0$$

$$(10) \quad \frac{g(g-1)}{2} b^4 + (g-1)b^2 + 1 + a^4 = 0$$

$$(11) \quad \frac{g(g-1)(g-2)}{2} b^4 + \frac{(g-1)(g-2)}{2} b^2 + g = 0.$$

Substitute (9) to (10) we get

$$\frac{g(g-1)}{2} b^4 + (g-1)b^2 + g^2 b^4 = 0;$$

and so

$$\frac{g(3g-1)}{2} b^2 + (g-1) = 0.$$

Thus  $\frac{g(3g-1)}{2} = g-1$  and  $g \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$ . But (11) implies  $g \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

From now on we assume  $g \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . Under this condition we get  $a = b = 1$  by (9) and (10). Once again, we use (5) to get

$$f(x+1) + f(x) = (p(x+1) + p(x)) + \gamma(x) \in \mathcal{H},$$

where  $\gamma(x) = (x^4 + x^2 + 1)((x+1)^{2g-3} + x^{2g-3})$ .

We claim that  $\gamma(x) \in \mathcal{H}$  if and only if  $g-2$  is a 2-power. Suppose  $\gamma(x) \in \mathcal{H}$ . We have  $\deg(\gamma) = 2g$  and the its odd-degree terms are

$$\begin{aligned}
& \binom{2g-3}{2} x^{2g-1} \\
& + \left( \binom{2g-3}{2} + \binom{2g-3}{4} \right) x^{2g-3} \\
& + \left( \binom{2g-3}{2} + \binom{2g-3}{4} + \binom{2g-3}{6} \right) x^{2g-5} \\
& + \left( \binom{2g-3}{4} + \binom{2g-3}{6} + \binom{2g-3}{8} \right) x^{2g-7} \\
& + \dots \\
& + \left( \binom{2g-3}{2m-4} + \binom{2g-3}{2m-2} + \binom{2g-3}{2m} \right) x^{2g-(2m-1)}
\end{aligned}$$

Set the odd-degree terms of degree  $> g$  zero, and use the identity  $\binom{2g-3}{2n} = \binom{g-2}{n}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  for all  $n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{g-2}{1} &= 0 \\
\binom{g-2}{1} + \binom{g-2}{2} &= 0 \\
\binom{g-2}{1} + \binom{g-2}{2} + \binom{g-2}{3} &= 0 \\
\binom{g-2}{2} + \binom{g-2}{3} + \binom{g-2}{4} &= 0 \\
&\vdots \\
\binom{g-2}{m-2} + \binom{g-2}{m-1} + \binom{g-2}{m} &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

for  $m < \frac{g+1}{2}$ . But we already have  $\binom{g-2}{1} = \binom{g-2}{2} = \binom{g-2}{3} = 0$ , so this system of equations has a solution if and only if  $\binom{g-2}{m} = 0$  for all  $m \leq \frac{g}{2}$ . That is,  $g-2$  is a 2-power. This proved parts (i) and (ii).

When  $g = 4$ , we follow the same argument but only simpler. Namely, any non-trivial automorphism  $\lambda$  will lead to (9) and (10) and hence  $g \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$ . Contradiction.  $\square$

*Case 9.* Suppose  $r = 0$  and  $g = 4$  or  $g \geq 7$ :

Let  $f(x) = x^{2g+1} + x^{2g-1} + x^{2g-3} + p(x)$ , where  $p(x)$  is any polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $\leq 2g-6$  such that  $g \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , or  $g \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  and

- (i) if  $g-2$  is a 2-power, then let  $p = x^n + x^{n-2} + (\text{lower-degree terms})$  where  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ; or
- (ii) if  $g-2$  is not a 2-power, then let  $p \in \mathcal{H}$ .

We shall verify our construction above. If  $g \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  it follows from Lemma 6. Suppose  $g \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . It can be easily checked that part (i) implies  $p(x+1) + p(x) \notin \mathcal{H}$  so it follows from part (i) of the same Lemma. In part (ii)  $p \in \mathcal{H}$  implies that  $p(x+1) + p(x) \in \mathcal{H}$ . Since  $g-2$  is not a 2-power,  $\mathcal{H} + (x^4 + x^2 + 1)((x+1)^{2g-3} + x^{2g-3})$

is a non-trivial coset of  $\mathcal{H}$ , hence is disjoint from  $\mathcal{H}$ . So part (ii) follows from part (i) of the same Lemma again.

*Case 10.* Suppose  $r = 0$  and  $g = 6$ :

Let  $f = x^{2g+1} + x^{2g-3} + x^{2g-5} + p(x)$  where  $p(x)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $\leq 2g - 6$ .

Suppose  $x \mapsto ax + b$  gives rise to an automorphism  $\lambda$  of  $C$ . For any  $g \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  we show that the only possible extra automorphism is the one given by  $a, b$  are both 3-rd roots of unity over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . Apply (5) to coefficients of  $x^{2g}, x^{2g-1}, x^{2g-3}, x^{2g-5}$ , those are  $a^{2g}b, 1 + a^{2g-3}(1 + b^4), 1 + a^{2g-5}$ . If  $b = 0$  then  $a = 1$  so it is trivial. If  $b \neq 0$  then  $a = b + 1$  and  $a^3 = 1$ . If it is not trivial then  $a, b$  are 3-rd roots of unity.

When  $g = 6$  we have  $a^{2g-5} = a^7 = 1$  and  $a^6 = 1$  so  $a = 1$ . This implies  $b = 0$ . So  $\lambda$  is trivial.

*Case 11.* Suppose  $r = 0$  and  $g = 3$  or  $5$ :

Let  $f = x^{2g+1} + x^{2g-3} + p(x)$  where  $p(x)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$  of degree  $2g - 5$ . In fact, this construction works for every odd  $g \geq 3$ .

Suppose  $x \mapsto ax + b$  gives rise to an automorphism  $\lambda$  of  $C$ . The coefficient of  $x^{2g}$  and  $x^{2g-1}$  in  $f(ax + b) + f(x)$  are  $a^{2g}b$  and  $a^{2g-1}b$ , respectively. At least one of them has to vanish by (5), so  $b = 0$ . This implies  $a = 1$  by applying (5) again.

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